

## Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant Programs

The Code of Virginia provides for the following annual litter taxes to be collected and deposited in an interest earning account: the Litter Control and Recycling Trust Fund (Fund):

- **Litter Tax – Section 58.1-1707:** \$10.00 per year for each location of manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors or retailers of consumer products and an additional \$15.00 per year per location where groceries, soft drinks and beer are sold.
- **Excise Tax on Soft Drinks – Section 58.1-1702:** A gross receipts tax on wholesalers.
- **Excise Tax on Beer and Wine Coolers – Section 4.1-236:** 2% of the taxes collected go to the Fund.

In Fiscal Year 2004 (July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004), the litter taxes generated \$1,877,247. The FY2003 Fund included the following revenues and interest amounts:

- Litter Tax Revenue = \$792,355
- Soft Drink Tax = \$209,955
- Beer Tax = \$860,932
- Interest = \$14,005

**Section 10.1-1422.01** of the Code of Virginia established the Litter Control and Recycling Fund and stipulated that revenues from the litter tax are distributed each year according to the following allocation formula:

- 75% - Non-Competitive Litter Prevention and Recycling Grants to each Virginia locality;
- 20% - Competitive Grants for statewide and regional Litter Prevention and Recycling Educational Programs, and,
- 5% - To the Department of Environmental Quality to administer the grant program and provide support for the Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board (Board). This group sets grant funding policy for both litter and recycling in the Commonwealth.

FY2004 Budget language set the amount available for Non-Competitive Grants to Virginia localities at \$1,272,750.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has historically provided funds for litter prevention and recycling grants to localities under a **Non-Competitive Grant Program** based on population and road miles. These grants have been awarded annually to localities for local litter prevention and recycling program implementation, continuation, and/or expansion. The grant cycle is July 1 – June 30. Grant announcements and applications are emailed and/or mailed to all Virginia localities on

May 1. The applications are generally due to DEQ by June 30 with the Performance and Accounting Reports for the locality's last grant generally due to DEQ by August 31.

All counties, cities, and towns in the Commonwealth are eligible for these grant funds. If your locality is a participant in a Cooperative Program, only the Coordinating Agency needs to submit an application. To qualify for grant funds, the Non-Competitive Grant recipients must submit Performance and Accounting Reports on the activities and expenses for which the previous year's grant funds were used. DEQ compiles the information that is submitted by the grant recipients and certified by one of their authorized agents and submits it to the Board for their review and consideration.

The current Performance and Accounting Report on the Non-Competitive Grant Program can be accessed through the following link: [www.deq.state.va.us/recycle/programs.html](http://www.deq.state.va.us/recycle/programs.html). Previous Performance and Accounting Reports can also be found at this site. A historical summary of the competitive grant education projects can also be accessed from this web link.